

Message Text

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SUBJECT: EXCHANGES WITH MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

REF: (A) MOSCOW 19445, (B) MOSCOW 19776

1. SUMMARY. P&C COUNSELOR, CAO AND ACAO/EXCHANGES VISITED MINED DEC 17 FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH DEPUTY HEAD OF FOREIGN RELATIONS SHIRINSKIY AND US DESK OFFICER ORESHIN. TOPICS COVERED INCLUDED PROPOSED EDUCATION SEMINAR (SEE REF A), PROPOSAL ON EXPANSION OF LECTURER EXCHANGE, TEMPLE DIRECT EXCHANGE PROPOSAL, PROPOSED SECONDARY SCHOOL EXCHANGE, AND TEXTBOOK QUESTION. SOVIETS ALSO PROPOSED DELEGATION VISIT TO US. MEETING WAS FRIENDLY AND MUTUALLY INFORMATIVE ONE. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBOFFS REQUESTED MEETING AT MIN TO INQUIRE RE STATUS OF MIN'S RESPONSE TO EMB'S PROPOSAL, CONVEYED VIA DIPLOMATIC NOTE IN MAY, 1976, TO EXPAND LECTURER EXCHANGE TO INCLUDE MINED INSTITUTIONS AND TO INQUIRE RE MIN'S ABILITY TO RECEIVE DELEGATION
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 19850 211203Z

FOR SEMINAR AS PER REF A.

3. IN PAST, EMB'S QUERRIES TO MINED RE LECTURER EXCHANGE ALTERNATELY BROUGHT REPLIES THAT THE MIN HAD NOT RECEIVED THE EMB'S PROPOSAL OR THAT IT WAS NOT YET READY TO RESPOND, BUT ON THIS PARTICULAR OCCASION SHIRINSKIY WAS PREPARED TO DISCUSS IT.

SHIRINSKIY INDICATED MINED FAVORS PARTICIPATION IN EXCHANGE AND SAID MIN WAS EVEN PREPARED TO BEGIN DURING CURRENT ACADEMIC YEAR. ONE CONDITION MIN PLACES ON PARTICIPATION IS THAT LECTURERS SPEAK LANGUAGE OF COUNTRY IN WHICH THEY WILL BE LECTURING. EMBOFFS REPLIED THAT IT WOULD BE MORE REALISTIC TO EXPECT EXCHANGE TO START NEXT YEAR AND THAT FINDING QUALIFIED LECTURERS WHO SPEAK RUSSIAN WOULD BE DIFFICULT. SHIRINSKIY ALSO SAID MINED HAD IN MIND VISITS BY LECTURERS FOR PERIOD OF APPROXIMATELY THREE WEEKS, WITH SOME OF THE VISITING SPECIALISTS SPEAKING IN INSTITUTIONS IN SEVERAL CITIES. EMBOFFS EXPLAINED AGAIN, HAVING DONE SO DURING EARLIER DISCUSSIONS AND IN THE NOTE PROPOSING THE EXCHANGE, THAT US SIDE HAD IN MIND LONGER PERIODS FOR LECTURES. EMBOFFS ALSO CALLED SHIRINSKIY'S ATTENTION TO LANGUAGE OF SECTION I PARA 2 OF PROGRAM OF EXCHANGES. IT WAS CLEAR THAT SHIRINSKIY HAD IN MIND PROBLEM OF SCHEDULING EXTENDED VISITS TO US BY SENIOR SOVIET SCHOLARS WITH SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES IN TRAINING OR RESEARCH INSTITUTES OR IN MIN ITSELF. EMBOFFS INDICATED THAT PLACEMENTS OF SO-CALLED "DISTINGUISHED LECTURERS" FOR PERIODS OF AS LITTLE AS ONE MONTH WERE SOMETIMES POSSIBLE. EMBOFFS AND SHIRINSKIY AGREED TO EXCHANGE IN NEAR FUTURE LISTS OF NAME/FIELD REQUESTS. REQUEST CIES TRANSMIT TO EMB VIA DEPT SOONEST UPDATED LIST OF US INSTITUTIONS SEEKING LECTURERS IN EDUCATION-RELATED FIELDS, CITING IN EACH CASE LEVEL OF EXPERTISE AND LENGTH OF STAY DESIRED. WILL TRY WITH THIS INFO IN HAND TO MAKE CLEAR TO SHIRINSKIY THAT WE HAVE IN MIND AN EXCHANGE OF WORKING-LEVEL LECTURERS RATHER THAN OF ONLY DISTINGUISHED SENIOR SCHOLARS. WHILE WE SEE PROBLEMS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF EXCHANGE IF MINED STICKS TO LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT AND SHORT DURATIONS, WE FEEL INTEREST IN EXCHANGE AT MINED IS STRONG AND MIN AT LAST FEELS EMPOWERED BY NEW PROGRAM TO PURSUE IT. THEREFORE EMB UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 19850 211203Z

RECOMMENDS STARTING NOW WITH EXCHANGE OF PRIORITY LISTS WHILE TRYING TO WORK OUT DETAILS AFTER LISTS ARE EXCHANGED. EMB WOULD FAVOR SENDING ONE "DISTINGUISHED LECTURER" (PERHAPS YURI BRONFENBRENNER) TO USSR FOR PERIOD AS SHORT AS ONE MONTH AS INDICATION OF US SIDE'S INTEREST IN GETTING EXCHANGE STARTED. IT IS IN OUR JUDGMENT REASONABLE TO EXPECT MINED COULD ACTUALLY PLACE THREE AMERICAN LECTURERS DURING NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR.

4. MINED CURRENTLY STUDYING PROPOSAL FOR DELEGATION VISIT AND SEMINAR CONVEYED BY EMB IN DIPLOMATIC NOTE BASED ON STATE 203930. COPY OF NOTE FORWARDED TO DEPT. SHIRINSKIY INDICATED MIN PLEASED TO RECEIVE PROPOSAL AND SAID VISIT IN FEB-MARCH WAS OKAY IN PRINCIPLE, I.E. TIMING NOT INCONVENIENT FOR MIN. SHIRINSKIY HAD SOME DIFFICULTY, HOWEVER, IN UNDERSTANDING PRECISELY WHAT US SIDE WISHED TO INCLUDE IN GENERAL AREA OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH. BELIEVE SOME SAMPLE TOPICS TO BE COVERED BY PAPERS AT PROPOSED SEMINAR WOULD BE HELPFUL. REQUEST DEPT OBTAIN FROM HODGKINSON OR OTHERS TOPICS AND/OR OUTLINES AND

FORWARD SOONEST. IN THIS CONNECTION ALSO BELIEVE CONSULTATION BETWEEN US ORGANIZER OF THIS PROPOSED SEMINAR AND FELDMESSER OF ETS ON HOW RECENT HIGHER EDUCATION SEMINAR WENT WOULD BE HELPFUL.

5. SHIRINSKIY ALSO PRESENTED EMBOFFS WITH DIPLOMATIC NOTE WHICH REFERS TO SECTION I PARA 8 OF NEW PROGRAM AND INFORMS EMB THAT MINED IS PREPARED TO SEND DELEGATION OF UP TO TWELVE PERSONS TO US AFTER 12 APRIL 1977, FOR TWO WEEKS FOR PARTICIPATION IN SEMINAR ON "PEDAGOGICAL EDUCATION -- PROFESSIONAL-PEDAGOGICAL PREPARATION OF TEACHERS IN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING." SOVIET DELEGATION WOULD BE HEADED BY DEP MINISTER OF ED. EMB FORWARDING COPY OF NOTE TO DEPT. EMB FAVORS ACCEPTANCE OF SOVIET PROPOSAL, WITH NUMBER OF SOVIET PARTICIPANTS TO EQUAL NUMBER OF AMERICANS WHO WILL PARTICIPATE IN SEMINAR DISCUSSED UNDER PARA 4 ABOVE. BELIEVE VISIT/SEMINAR WILL PRESENT USEFUL OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS, INTER ALIA, POSSIBLE DIRECT EXCHANGES (SEE BELOW) AND EXCHANGES OF TEACHERS (SEE MOSCOW 11202). SHIRINSKIY INDICATED THAT MINED REMAINS INTERESTED IN EXPLORING POSSIBILITIES FOR TEACHER EXCHANGE.
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UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 MOSCOW 19850 211203Z

6. EMBOFFS INQUIRED RE TEMPLE PROPOSAL AND MINED RESPONSE WAS CONVEYED REF B. VISIT TO TEMPLE SHOULD CERTAINLY BE INCLUDED IN PROGRAM FOR DELEGATION TO SEMINAR DISCUSSED ABOVE AND PERHAPS TEMPLE COULD SERVE AS SEMINAR HOST.

7. SHIRINSKIY RAISED AGAIN SUBJECT OF COOPERATIVE WORK ON TEXT-BOOK CONTENT. P&C COUNSELOR REVIEWED FOR SHIRINSKIY, WHO HAD NOT YET RECEIVED REPORT ON IT, DISCUSSION OF TEXTBOOK QUESTION WHICH TOOK PLACE IN CONNECTION WITH NEGOTIATIONS ON PROGRAM. SHIRINSKIY LISTENED WITH INTEREST, AND APPARENTLY MORE COMPREHENSION THAN USUAL, AS COUNSELOR EXPLAINED TEXTBOOK SITUATION IN US. HE ALSO PROMISED TO SEEK REPORT ON DISCUSSION FROM SOVIET REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT AT NEGOTIATIONS. COUNSELOR RECOMMENDED THAT IF SOVIETS WERE INTERESTED IN PURSUING COOPERATIVE EFFORTS IN TEXTBOOK CONTENT ANALYSIS DIRECT COOPERATION WITH ONE OR MORE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY SCHOOLS OF ED WOULD BE THE WAY TO PROCEED. HENCE THIS, TOO, MAY SERVE AS AN ADDITIONAL PUSH TOWARD DIRECT COOPERATION WITH TEMPLE OR ANOTHER UNIVERSITY.
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